

• Abroad •

Paris. In the substance of foreign policy, General de Gaulle has had his troubles in trying to revive the grandeur of the France of *le Roi soleil*, but in outward form he has had himself—quite literally—an almost continuous ball. Never have there been so many public ceremonies for so many as Paris has staged over the past two years. In the Place de la Concorde the Fifth Republic (as it is quaintly called) has erected the two largest flagstuffs in the world, able to handle flags 20 by 30 meters in winds up to 100 mph. Every week new thousands of banners are broken out from these, from their fellows in every square and on every major building, and from the lampposts of the major avenues. President de Gaulle prefers to dine and dance his guests of state at the monumental palaces of Versailles and the Louvre rather than humdrum bureaucratized buildings. Command performances of opera, theater and orchestras are spread before them. The workmen have scarcely time to change the city's decorations, so fast do the guests succeed each other: within a few months this year, two Presidents of the United States, the Kings of Belgium and Thailand, Nikita Khrushchev, the Presidents of Senegal, West Germany, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Peru, the Shah of Iran, Emperor Haile Selassie, Prince Rainier, the Prime Minister of Quebec. André Malraux takes a particular interest in the pomps. He has planned for next year a complete revamping of the Champs Elysées to permit flags 25 meters square to be flying on both flanks every 15 meters from Tuileries to Arc de Triomphe.

Geneva. First hand reports from Pierre Guillery to the *Journal de Genève* give new details of the booming opium industry, Communist China's top earner of foreign exchange. Production of crude opium has nearly doubled in the past decade, to approximately 15,000 tons. Processed drugs are shipped abroad through four routes: north China (Tsingtao-Tientsin) to Korea and Japan; Shanghai to Baghdad and Africa; Canton to Hongkong-Macao; Yunnan into Burma-Thailand, and from there to Japan, Hawaii and America. A recent escapee, who worked on a 7,000 acre poppy farm near Lingyuan, Jehol province, reports it enclosed by electrified barbed wire and guarded continuously by Red soldiers.

Paris. France and the Soviet Union have been holding simultaneous parallel expositions in each other's capital. A French engineer, who helped set up the French exhibits in Moscow, declared on returning: "The great superiority of the Russians lies in the way they get the best and the most out of their men, while the West lets her men rot. A Russian scientist works for the sake of the power of the Soviet army and for the Communist conquest of the world. A Western scientist signs petitions to get his country to capitulate before aggression, and he preaches disarmament. A Soviet scientist is a conqueror;

a Western scientist, a pacifist. The former profits from all the strength of imperial advance; the latter mires his spirit in the slough of democratic pathos. Just compare the victorious atmosphere of Soviet study centers with the defeatist atmosphere of Saclay [a French research center], for example. The West senses the scientific sterility of the Joliot-Curies, Oppenheimers and Perrins to such a degree that it has got to make use—in spite of all the inconveniences—of a von Braun and his team. With the Russians, a scientist is first of all a soldier of Communism. In the West, a scientist is above all an anti-militarist."



Vicky, London Evening Standard

Bologna. The government of this city, as well as the agricultural cooperatives in the surrounding country, is run by the Communist Party. The right-wing magazine *Borghese* reports an interesting consequence. The CP has just completed a big public campaign to raise money for the Party press. It was a rousing success because, and only because, the principal subscribers included a long list (printed in *Borghese*) of local businessmen and corporations that shelled out \$500 to \$2,500 apiece. This incident is typical of the ways in which Italian business, "vainly hoping to be spared tomorrow," is subsidizing Communist and Soviet political operations at a current rate of many millions of dollars a year.

Grenoble. Pierre Mendès-France has emerged from semi-withdrawal, and is touring France to put forward—usually to small, closed meetings—his plan for a "transitional regime" to take over from "the General." He proposes what Communists used to call a "united front from below," resting on "a contract" to uphold a three-plank platform: 1) "peace in Algeria," interpreted to mean immediate transfer of unconditional sovereignty over all Algeria and the Sahara to the GPRA (i.e., the FLN); 2) "resistance to fascism," interpreted to mean opposition to the "extreme Right and its military allies" (i.e., to all who favor *Algerie française*); 3) "an end to personal power, and re-establishment of genuine democratic institutions," interpreted to mean a Popular Front government comprising all except patriotic, conservative and anti-Communist tendencies.

Copyright of National Review Bulletin is the property of National Review Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.